



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Chairman

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Agenda Item # 11

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

March 14, 2012

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Keen Seconded By: Mr. Layne

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Southeast High Speed Rail Richmond, VA to Raleigh, NC Rail Alignment Recommendation Report

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted Recommended Alternative A-Plus, as set forth in the *Study Area Alternatives Recommendation Report for the SEHSR Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, dated March 5, 2002; which was subsequently adopted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in the Tier I Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD); and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division, in conjunction with FRA, have continued to further the effort of implementing high speed rail passenger service within SEHSR by developing a Tier II Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to identify a preferred alignment within the selected corridor between Richmond, VA, and Raleigh, NC; and,

WHEREAS, significant public involvement occurred including direct mail; newspaper advertisements; a project website; eight formal public hearings (four of which were held in Virginia); a public comment period; community leader interviews; and multiple small group meetings; and,

WHEREAS, resulting from comments received, an additional meeting was held in Alberta, VA, to present and discuss new rail alternatives developed in two sections of the project; and,

WHEREAS, based on public comments, the response in both Virginia and North Carolina generally supports the project of developing high speed passenger rail on the proposed alignment; and,

WHEREAS, a Tier II Draft Environmental Impact Study evaluating up to four alternatives in 26 sections along the SEHSR corridor between Richmond and Raleigh has now been completed; and,

WHEREAS, in preparation of the Draft Tier II Final Environmental Impact Statement, a Rail Recommendation Report was developed to guide in the identification of the preferred alignment alternative for each of the 26 sections of the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Draft Tier II Environmental Impact Statement Rail Recommendation Report was made available for comments by Virginia and North Carolina between February 9, 2012 and March 9, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board was briefed by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation of the Rail Recommendation Report's 26 section recommendation at its February 15, 2012 Workshop meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the public comment period has closed and public comments received did not require alteration of the Rail Recommendation Report as proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for the purpose of identifying the preferred rail alternative for inclusion in the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor Tier II Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopts the Rail Alignment Recommendation Report dated February 1, 2012, which recommends the following alternatives in Virginia: Section AA - VA1; Section BB - VA1; Section CC - VA1; Section DD - VA3; Section A - VA2; Section B - VA1; Section C - VA1; Section D - VA4; Section E - VA1; Section F - VA1; Section G - VA3; Section H - VA1; Section I - VA1; Section J - VA2; Section K - VA1; Section K - VA1; Section L - VA1-NC1; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commonwealth Transportation Board authorizes the Secretary of Transportation, or his designee, to execute the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor Richmond, VA to Raleigh, NC Tier II Final Environmental Impact Statement for submission to the Federal Railroad Administration and National Environmental Protection Agency upon its completion satisfactory to the Secretary and the Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

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